

Anne Weston

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Boston





[illegible]



solong, & <sup>am quite</sup> able to let patience serve my turn  
till active powers are regained. I tryed  
to hope these will be restored by the  
early part of next month, & that by the  
second week in June we may be able to  
effect a scheme which Mr Webb & I are busy  
concocting for uniting our respective families  
under one roof within walking distance  
of Devonshire Street. I think I must give  
you the benefit of his communications,  
tho' as they were not designed for your  
perusal you must not expose me by making  
them texts for further controversy on the  
old vexed question. He & I are prepared  
to fight valiantly with you in defence of  
our favorite Miss Wigham whom we think  
you sadly wrong from ignorance of the  
materials with which she has to deal.  
I take no exception at any one of the epithets  
which you apply to the spirit & propagation  
of New Organization; it is as hateful to us  
as to you, & we are as much alive to the  
duplicity, fraud, & injustice it conceals  
under the cloak of sectarian zeal. But  
your prescribed mode of treatment, tho'



most judicious & indeed essential in  
America, where these black features can  
be brought to light, & thoroughly proved,  
would have the contrary effect of spreading  
the infection here, where 99 out of 100  
professedly Antislavery people can never  
be induced to examine for themselves  
into the merits of the question, but take  
all statements upon hearsay. These  
99 are for the most part pupils of Scoble  
& their religious sympathies are  
at once enlisted by the cant of the New  
Organizationists; so that if where our  
assertions are weighed against theirs, &  
these ~~are~~ are the only <sup>grounds of their</sup> ~~conviction~~ <sup>conviction</sup>  
~~of evidence~~ there is no doubt of the  
utter defeat of the American Society's  
heretical allies. If all these allies were  
to adopt Mr Paton's course, & noisily  
proclaim in season & out of season the  
claims of that Society & the sins of its oppo-  
nents, irrespective of the tone, temper,  
& degree of enlightenment of each audience,  
~~that~~ they would <sup>at once</sup> frighten away the  
99 who are now useful auxiliaries, &  
by discarding all who could not



accept their declarations & requirements  
a little handful of come-outers among the  
Quakers & some half dozen Unitarians  
others would be left to work alone,  
destitute of all the present machinery  
which the name of a <sup>fund</sup> society afford for  
passing resolutions, circulating information,  
taking useful action, & collecting for the  
Bazaar. Our policy, like Miss Wigham's,  
- without disguising our own sentiment  
to secure the co-operation of all people of  
every grade of enlightenment, who have  
any genuine Antislavery feeling, & who are  
at all open to conviction; & to watch our  
opportunities for proving to them the ac-  
curacy of our <sup>statements</sup> conclusions & the decepti-  
on of the Scobelites. It is astonishing how  
some of these people's eyes get opened when  
they discover themselves to have been che-  
tured by some of the "decidedly pious" hypocrites  
whom they would not hear a word against  
till they had <sup>this</sup> personal experience; & after  
that we have such a strong handle to  
make so much more way! We have been  
creeping on after this fashion for several  
years & are in hopes now the day of open



warfare is close at hand. <sup>Mar 16, 57</sup> but at no  
earlier time could it have been engaged  
in with the slightest chance of success.  
This theme in all its ramifications would  
fill volumes; & my few words of explanation  
written hastily & from bed are not likely  
to render it much more intelligible  
to you; but I can't help being anxious  
to set you right respecting the character  
of the tools we have to work with, & to  
entreat you to suspend your judgment  
till you have examined more closely  
into the peculiarities & difficulties of  
our position. I will send you either  
now or in a day or two a letter just received  
from Miss Brigham with whose troubles  
we have been expressing our sympathy,  
& who we believe chose the least of two  
evils in her conduct relative to the  
Edinburgh soiree. Brown & Craft certainly  
acted precisely as we should have  
done in their circumstances. They  
maintain that they could not do otherwise  
than conform to the wishes of those whom  
they knew to be Mr Garrison's best friends



in the course prescribed for them. They  
expressed their own opinions to Miss W.  
but considered her judgement superior  
to their own, from her intimate acquaint-  
ance with the parties with whom she  
had to deal. And she showed them how the  
Pennington adversaries who composed the major-  
ity of the assembly would have been roused  
to open hostility by his being excluded from  
the platform, <sup>where</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>she</sup> would have used this  
handle to damage the faithful. Now he has  
exposed himself by his pecuniary transactions  
his attacks of insanity wh came on opportu-  
nely to relieve his embarrassments with no longer  
avail. Henson too will we hope soon be  
let aside, & then Garnet will be our chief  
remaining antagonist among the colored  
ministers (to all of whom we have the strong  
aversion) & he has had already sundry  
intimidations, & hints to take care how  
he plays with edged tools. My Father  
means if possible to add a few lines which  
will I hope compensate to some extent for  
my deficiencies. In a few days I shall hope  
to be stronger & able more fully to express my



sympathy in all your past & present doing.  
We feel no right to complain of any  
neglect on the part of some members of  
your circle while we learn that their  
silence has given their American corres-  
pondents ground for "denouncing them  
all day long"; my Aunt expresses some  
astonishment at such accomplished  
ladies as she understands Miss F. Weston  
& Miss Chapman to be not having been  
initiated into the art of writing, which  
is an early & very general branch of edu-  
cation in this country. We however  
keep our opinions on these points to our-  
selves or vent our emotions in condolences;  
with our fellow sufferers in America.  
I want to know if your sisters are returned  
from New York, if your brother is better  
& a hundred things pertaining to every  
one dear to you. The Crafts are "come  
home" to us (so Ellen has long designated  
this house) after a visit to several towns  
in the West Devonshire & Dorsetshire  
where we were able to introduce them  
to friends among whom we hope they



have been doing good service. W. W. Brown  
went on yesterday to Gloucester & Cheltenham  
which places we have also endeavoured  
to prepare for their reception; they are to  
follow him on Monday. I am longing for  
you to know Ellen, I am convinced you  
will delight in her, & I hope too you &  
Mr. Follen & other friends will be able  
to help us in wisely directing their future  
course, which seems at present involved  
in many intricacies, & conflicting considera-  
& interests that it is almost bewildering.  
I find there is a probability of their getting  
to London earlier than we propose being  
there; in the prospect of which I am not very  
happy; it not being apparent what means of  
support they will have there or what power  
their friends will possess of providing or  
arranging for them. I think Ellen's health  
has never sufficiently recovered the shock of  
their cruel persecution in Boston, to make her  
equal to all the tossing about she has since  
to encounter, & I am never so happy as when she  
is under our immediate protection. But all  
these histories must wait, & all details of the  
vigorous action of our revived committee. My  
ally Miss Fiske has just been here consulting on me  
for stirring up the Methodists now we have done  
among the Congregationalists & Baptists.